

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on September 20, 2005, the following members were present:

Greg Jergeson, Chairman
Brad Molnar, Vice Chairman
Doug Mood, Commissioner
Robert H. Raney, Commissioner

The votes were left open for Commissioner Thomas J. Schneider.

APPEARANCE
Eric Eck
Utility Division

(360) In the matter of NorthWestern Energy filed semi-annual true-up Advice Letter pursuant to Order No. 6035a:

Commissioner Raney moved to approve the decreases in FTA rates effective October 1, 2005. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

(361) In the matter of AT&T filed Tariff Transmittal 2005-12:

Commissioner Raney moved to approve AT&T's Tariff Transmittal 2005-12 in Docket No. N2005.9.131. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

APPEARANCE
Wayne Budt, Administrator
Transportation & Centralized Services Division

(362) In the matter of Badlands, Inc. dba Badlands Taxi, Miles City, Montana filed request for increased rates on passengers movements under PSC No. 417-Docket No. T-05.34.RI:

Commissioner Molnar moved to approve the rate increase as requested. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

(363) In the matter of Glendive Transfer and Storage Co., Inc., Miles City, Montana request for a final six month suspension of PSC No. 411 from September 16, 2005 to March 16, 2006-Docket No. TN2277:

Commissioner Jergeson moved to approve the suspension as requested. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

(364) In the matter of the approval of Commission Minutes:

Commissioner Mood moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the week of September 12, 2005. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

APPEARANCE

Robin McHugh, Administrator
Legal Division

(365) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Central Montana Communications rate changes- Docket No. D2002.5.50 and D2002.1.12:

Commissioner Jergeson moved to close the dockets and affirm the rate sheets as submitted per the filings. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Commissioner Jergeson moved that staff draft a letter to the small TECOs who may file under section 9 explaining the Commission's expectations on these filings. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Legal Division
Mike Lee, Utility Division

(366) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Public Service Commission Annual ETC Certification- Docket No. N2005.8.118:

Commissioner Raney moved to approve the completed certification requests for 2006 USF and to defer the balance of the work session until Friday, September 23, 2005 to discuss the remaining listed ETCs. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Legal Division
Kim Moran, Utility Division

(367) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Western Montana Local Calling Coalition EAS- Docket No. D2003.12.170:

Commissioner Mood moved to schedule hearings in Polson, St. Ignatius, Ronan, and Hot Springs for the purpose of receiving public input into the suggested EAS. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Legal Division

Kim Moran, Utility Division

Will Rosquist, Utility Division

(368) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of NorthWestern Energy Gas and Electric USB- Docket No. D2004.7.99, D2004.12.192, and D2005.6.106:

Commissioner Raney moved to deny District 11's motion to amend the procedural schedule for the dockets in this work session. Commissioner Molnar seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Commissioner Raney moved to have the Commission schedule an out-of-cycle work session for Friday, September 23, 2005 to discuss the change in the winter cut-off date according to PSC rules for all Montana utilities. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Legal Division

Mike Lee, Utility Division

Will Rosquist, Utility Division

(369) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of NorthWestern Energy qualifying facility, annual avoided cost proceedings- Docket No. D2003.7.86, D2004.6.96, and D2005.6.103:

Commissioner Raney moved to deny the NorthWestern Energy motion to suspend considerations in this matter in the dockets subject to this work session. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed 3-1. Commissioner Molnar voted no.

Commissioner Raney moved that the Commission issue an Order directing NorthWestern Energy to file its motion for Protective Order in these dockets by October 03, 2005. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

APPEARANCE

Candace Beery

Utility Division

(370) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of MISO Board of Directors Special Meeting:

Commissioner Jergeson moved that Montana would reserve the right to file comments and exceptions generally supporting Attachment FF. Montana would oppose the Wisconsin amendment and that Commissioner Jergeson's proxy would exercise his or her judgment related to a motion that discussed delay and make sure the delay is to good effect. Commissioner Mood

seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Administrator
Utility Division

(371) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of staff travel for Gary Duncan to Albuquerque, New Mexico October 17-21, 2005 for "Basics of Regulation":

Commissioner Raney moved to approve Gary Duncan's travel to Albuquerque, New Mexico October 17-21, 2005 to participate as faculty at the New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities "Basics of Regulation" course. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

GREG JERGESON, Chairman

BRAD MOLNAR, Vice Chairman

DOUG MOOD, Commissioner

ROBERT H. RANEY, Commissioner

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Connie Jones
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Thursday, September 22, 2005, 9:30 a.m. the following members were present:

Greg Jergeson, Chairman
Brad Molnar, Vice Chairman
Doug Mood, Commissioner
Robert H. Raney, Commissioner
Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Al Brogan, Legal Division
Marla Larson, Utility Division

(372) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of the issues surrounding possible Grid West membership by the PSC. The Commission may want to take action and may want to consider joining as a voting member or as an ex officio (non-voting) member:

Commissioner Molnar moved to have the PSC not join GRID West until after convergence.
This motion failed for lack of a second.

Commissioner Schneider moved to have the Montana PSC support a positive vote on Decision Point 2, to convey this recommendation to all regional entities, to convey advocacy of that position at the regional RRG meeting on the 29th, and to urge the entities to conclude timely consideration of TIG elements for convergence prior to Decision Point 3. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

(373) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Grid West membership issues the topic of the PSC's position on moving forward or not with Grid West and whether to file late comments with BPA concerning same:

Commissioner Schneider moved to direct staff to draft a letter of application to Grid West for PSC membership and include in the applications the appropriate caveats and reservations.
Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Raney moved that Commissioner Schneider represent the Commission's position adopted in the first motion at the Regional Meeting on the 29th. Commissioner Mood seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

GREG JERGESON, Chairman

BRAD MOLNAR, Vice Chairman

DOUG MOOD, Commissioner

ROBERT H. RANEY, Commissioner

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Judy Scheier
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Friday, September 23, 2005, 9:00 a.m. the following members were present:

Greg Jergeson, Chairman
Brad Molnar, Vice Chairman
Doug Mood, Commissioner
Robert H. Raney, Commissioner
Thomas J. Schneider, Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Legal Division
Mike Lee, Utility Division

(374) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Docket D2003.12.170 - Western Montana Extended Local Calling Area Service (EAS) to review the EAS application:

Commissioner Schneider moved to approve ETC certification for Citizens, Reservation, 3 Rivers, and West River. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Molnar moved to certify WWC Holding Co. for 2006 and include a reference to WWC's not having rate comparability review. Commissioner Schneider seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Martin Jacobson, Legal Division
Will Rosquist, Utility Division

(375) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of Dockets; D2004.7.99, D2004.12.192, and D2005.6.106 - energy utility winter shut-off moratorium:

Commissioner Schneider moved to proceed with an emergency rule to expand winter shut-off moratorium dates. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion.

Commissioner Schneider withdrew his motion. Commissioner Raney withdrew his second.

Commissioner Mood moved to open a docket to expand winter shut-off moratorium to October 15th for the three largest Montana utilities. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mood moved to issue an interim order providing for adjustment date of the shut-off moratorium. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPEARANCE

Kate Whitney, Utility Division

(376) In the matter of the Commission's discussion of budget and personnel:

Commissioner Schneider moved to authorize the implementation of broadbanding for the rate analyst position. Commissioner Raney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

GREG JERGESON, Chairman

BRAD MOLNAR, Vice Chairman

DOUG MOOD, Commissioner

ROBERT H. RANEY, Commissioner

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Judy Scheier
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)